

Little Leaves Pre-School

New Ash Green Youth Centre, Ash Road, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8JY



Inspection date

3 February 2015

Previous inspection date

20 January 2014

	This inspection:	Good	2
The quality and standards of the early years provision	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- A well-established key person system means staff fully support the needs of the children. As a result, children form close relationships with staff and have a strong sense of belonging.
- Effective systems help the provider evaluate the setting. Continual reflective practice and ongoing staff training helps identify improvements that support children's needs and enhance the quality of the setting.
- Staff have a secure understanding of child protection, including the procedures they follow in the event of a concern. Robust recruitment and supervision procedures help the provider to ensure the ongoing suitability of staff.
- The staff use observation and assessment systems effectively to identify and support the next stages in children's learning. As a result, children make good progress in relation to their individual starting points.
- Behaviour is managed consistently well by staff. Children learn to share, take turns and manage their behaviour through positive support from staff.
- The staff give high priority to children's communication and language skills, skilfully introducing new vocabulary during play and routine activities.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Staff have strong partnerships with parents. However, there is scope to enhance parents' involvement further to fully support their children's learning.
- Information and communication technology resources and programmable toys are not consistently available for children to explore how and why things work.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- extend partnerships with parents so that parents can fully support their child's interests and learning at home
- improve opportunities for children to use a wider selection of information and technology resources, in order to enhance their understanding of how and why things work.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to staff, children and members of the management team at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor area.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.
- The inspector checked evidence of staff suitability and qualifications.
- The inspector viewed the setting's self-evaluation form and action improvement plan.

Inspector

Lara Hickson

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Children make good progress because staff plan activities and experiences in line with each child's individual starting points and interests. Staff demonstrate a good understanding of how child develops and adapt activities effectively to meet individual stages of development. The wide range of activities help staff promote children's learning. Resources are at low-level, enabling children to make decisions about what toys they want to play with. Staff support communication and language development well, such as using visual time lines, picture cards and skilful questioning. Staff introduce mathematical language into children's play. Although the staff supports children's learning well, there is scope to improve the area of information and technology. Resources and programmable toys are not consistently available to encourage children to investigate.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children form strong attachments with staff due to the highly effective settling in procedures. Staff use information from parents to support individual care needs and engage children in activities. The pre-school environment is safe and secure, ensuring that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Comprehensive risk assessments help staff identify and address any hazards immediately. Children enjoy a broad selection of healthy snacks. They are developing their independence well as they help to prepare the snacks and pour their own drinks. Children have daily opportunities for physical play outside. The staff use the garden area well to promote children's learning and development.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

Staff induction and supervision arrangements are robust. This helps promote the ongoing suitability and professional development of all staff. Reflective practice takes into account the views of parents, children and staff. Parents are positive in their comments about the pre-school, praising the 'home from home' atmosphere and friendly staff. The management team consistently monitor the quality and continual development of the pre-school. Staff use effective planning and assessment systems to help them identify and comprehensively support each child's care and learning needs. As a result, children are developing the abilities and skills they need for the move to school. Staff have established positive links with other early year's settings to share information about children's learning needs. Staff establish good partnerships with parents, however, staff are not routinely sharing information on children's learning needs. As a result, they do not rigorously encourage parents to support these more consistently at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	127211
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	962670
Type of provision	Sessional provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	26
Number of children on roll	39
Name of provider	Little Leaves Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	20 January 2014
Telephone number	01474 872 441

Little Leaves Pre-School registered in 1988 and operates from the youth centre in New Ash Green, Kent. The pre-school is open each weekday from 9am to 12 noon during term time. The pre-school is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four. There are seven members of staff, of whom, four staff hold an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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